



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,323	07/30/2001	Mark A. Kirkpatrick	BS01-091	9192

45695 7590 01/09/2006

WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH
P. O. BOX 71355
MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355

EXAMINER

NAWAZ, ASAD M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,323

Applicant(s)

KIRKPATRICK ET AL.

Examiner

Asad M. Nawaz

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/17/05
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination received 10/17/05. Claims 1, 2, 15, 26, 35, 36, and 46-48 were amended. Claims 50-62 have been canceled. No other claims have been amended, added, or canceled.

Accordingly, claims 1-49 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/17/05 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 recites a configuration request from at the one client application server. Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claim 1 recites a plurality of application servers in claim 1, line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Art Unit: 2155

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 2-11, 13, 15-24, 26-32, and 35-49 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weschler (USPAT 6,757,720).

As to claim 2, Weschler teaches a client-server computer system comprising a plurality of client application servers operation multiple computer network protocols, each client application server having an application including configuration variables that configure the application for operation (Fig 2; col 1, lines 19-67; col 9, lines 3-15);

an application properties server network accessible by said plurality of client application servers via at least one application software protocol, wherein said applicaitn server network provides configuration variable information to one of the client application servers in response to a configuration request from the one client application server (Figs 2 and 3; col 9, lines 3-42);

a storage medium coupled to said application server network, wherein said storage medium stores updated system configuration variable information and is administered by a server coupled to said client-server system (figs 2 and 3; col 10, lines 41-65)

As to claim 3, Weschler teaches the system of claim 2 wherein said storage medium comprises a database (Fig 3, 306, 307, 309, 311).

As to claim 4, Weschler teaches the system of claim 2 wherein said configuration information is represented by a storage schema in the form of LDAP (Fig 3, 306, 307; col 10, lines 41-65).

As to claim 5, Weschler teaches the system of claim 3 wherein said database contains a table-based system of configuration information, wherein said tables are searchable by said application server network in response to a request from at least one client (cig 3, 306, 307, 310; col 10, lines 41-65)

As to claim 6, Weschler teaches the system of claim 4 wherein the storage schema represented by LDAP represents a table-based system configuration information (col 10, lines 41-65).

As to claim 7, Weschler teaches the system of claim 2 wherein said database stores configuration information that is dynamically updateable by an external administrator (col 2, lines 30-45).

As to claim 8, Weschler teaches the system of claim 2 wherein said storage schema is in the form of LDAP and represents configuration information that is dynamically updateable by an external administrator (col 2, lines 30-45; col 10, lines 41-65).

As to claim 9, Weschler teaches the system of claim 7 wherein at least one client is coupled to said application server network via an RMI interface (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 10, Weschler teaches a client server computer system according to claim 8, wherein at least one client is coupled to said application server network via an RMI interface (col 8, lines 21-23).

As to claim 11, Weschler teaches the system of claim 3 wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Key value pairs (col 5, lines 39-40; col 12, lines 34-43).

As to claim 13, Weschler teaches the system of claim 7 wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Key value pairs (col 5, lines 39-40; col 12, lines 34-43).

As to claim 15, Weschler teaches an application properties server network comprising: a plurality of client application servers operating applications using a plurality of computer protocols and requiring configuration variable data to configure the applications for operation (col 1, lines 49-67; col 9, lines 3-15);

means for performing configuration services in response to configuration requests from said plurality of client application servers, said means for performing configuration services being coupled to said plurality of client application servers, said configuration services including providing configuration variable data to one of the client application servers in response to receiving a request for configuration variable data from the one client application server (Figs 2 and 3, col 9, lines 3-42 and col 10, lines 41-65); means for storing and maintaining a system of configuration variable data coupled to said means for performing configuration services; and means for interfacing

said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services (col 10, lines 41-65).

As to claim 16, Weschler teaches a server of claim 15 wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a CORBA server application (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 17, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 16, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a properties server application for handling RMI requests for configuration services (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 18 Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 17, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a common database access library (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 19, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 18, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a database server coupled to said properties server application for handling RMI requests and said CORBA server application for interacting with said means for storing and maintaining configuration information (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 20, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 15, further comprising a Java RMI API (col 8, lines 21-43; col 9, lines 43-53).

As to claim 21, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 20, further comprising a CORBA gateway (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 22, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 21, wherein said means for performing configuration service is implemented by a base Java RMI service in a service broker framework (col 8, lines 21-43; col 9, lines 43-53; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 23, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 22, wherein said service broker framework is implemented using at least one XML service broker configuration file (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 24, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 23 wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Key value pairs (col 5, lines 39-40; col 12, lines 34-43).

Claims 26-32, and 35-49 present no further limitations above the above-mentioned claims and are thus rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 12, 14, 25, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weschler (USPN: 6757720) further in view of Egbert et al (USPN: 6084877).

As to claim 1, Weschler teaches a client-server computer system comprising: a client application server implementing an application, including configuration variables, that configures the application for operation (col 1, lines 49-67); an application properties server accessible by the client application servers, said application properties server coupled to the client application server for providing configuration variable data for the configuration variables of the application in response to a request from the client application server that is implementing the application (Figs 2 and 3, col 1, lines 49-67; col 9, lines 3-42), wherein the request is provided from the client application server to the application properties server via a command line interface (sql) that includes one or more switches to control how the requested data is returned (Fig 3; col 6, lines 46-58), an administration system coupled to said application properties server; and a storage medium coupled to said application properties server and said administration system for centrally storing said configuration variable data (col 2, lines 30-45; col 10, lines 41-65).

However, Weschler does not explicitly indicate the one or more switches including at least a hashkey switch specifying that the configuration variables are to be returned in a hashtable.

Egbert et al teaches generating an index key for accessing a table entry using a hashing function where processing delays normally encountered in generating the index keys for data packet are minimized by generating the index key as the data packet is

being received by the network switch and also for generating hash keys for source and destination addresses corresponding to network switch (col 2, lines 18-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Egbert into those of Weschler to make the system more efficient. It is difficult for the network switches to quickly scan a table for the referenced address, locate the address, and make a frame forwarding decision as the table grows with table entries storing address information especially if the address information is stored in sequential order. It would be optimal to involve hash keys and hash tables to improve accessing of switching logic.

As to claims 12, 14, 25, 33, and 34, Weschler teaches the system of claim 2, 15, and 26, however, Weschler does not explicitly indicate the configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Hashtable hierarchy and the traversal of data in the form of hashtables. Egbert et al teaches generating an index key for accessing a table entry using a hashing function where processing delays normally encountered in generating the index keys for data packet are minimized by generating the index key as the data packet is being received by the network switch and also for generating hash keys for source and destination addresses corresponding to network switch (col 2, lines 18-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Egbert into those of Weschler to make the system more efficient. It is difficult for the network switches to quickly scan a table for

Art Unit: 2155

the referenced address, locate the address, and make a frame forwarding decision as the table grows with table entries storing address information especially if the address information is stored in sequential order. It would be optimal to involve hash keys and hash tables to improve accessing of switching logic.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asad M. Nawaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



AMN



SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER